

District Judge Benjamin H. Settle

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

RICK OLMTEAD,

Plaintiff,

v.

RAY MABUS,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:13-cv-05051-BHS

DECLARATION OF
AARON KEKOA KAUTH

I, AARON K. KAUTH, declare under penalty of perjury, as provided by 28 U.S.C.
§ 1746, that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1. I am currently employed by the United States Navy, at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Bremerton, WA ("Shipyard"). I have been employed at the Shipyard for 15 years. My current position is General Foreman (Supervisor II) in the Pipefitter Shop (Shop 56). I have been a supervisor for seven years. My date of birth is May 8, 1979.
2. The Pipefitter Shop (Shop 56) has a sizable group of Foremen (Supervisor I) and General Foreman (Supervisor II). Workload varies, so supervision is comprised of both permanent supervisors and temporary supervisors. More supervisors are needed when there are more work crews. Temporary supervisors typically revert back to their non-supervisory grade when workload decreases. A temporary promotion cannot exceed one year, but can be extended by new personnel action.
3. A temporary promotion is done competitively, extensions are administrative and do not require a new competition. In my experience the order of events to make up a competitive selection for these positions is, basically: (1) announcement of a vacancy, (2) a review of the applicants by a regional personnel office that results

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in a certificate of highly qualified candidates, (3) a rating of those candidates by a group of supervisors (the group is selected informally, mostly depending on who is available), (4) a comparison of the ratings, and (5) a final selection by the proper authority (for example the Nuclear Director for all nuclear qualified positions).

4. Selections, mostly temporary, are frequent, and I have done ratings as part of the selection process about six times. In early February, 2012, I was asked to rate a group of candidates from a highly qualified certificate for a temporary General Foreman (Supervisor II) position. The rating matrix is provided to each rater. The matrix contained the following list of attributes to rate:

Safety (Promotes safe work practices)

Job Knowledge and Experience (Process Knowledge, Technical Requirements)

Leadership Skills (Decision making, Accomplish work through others, Accepts the Role, Initiative)

Dependability (Attendance, Reliability and Knowledge)

Supports Management Decisions (Attitude, Ability to Administer Discipline, Policies, Team Player)

Organizes Self, Others, and Workplace (Attention to detail, Planning, Productivity, Manages Assignments Effectively)

Verbal and Written Communication Skills

Manage Human Resources (Training, Physicals, and Travel)

Flexibility (Manage Change, Priorities, Shifts and Travel)

Mentor Skills (ability to pass along to employees work ethics, training, etc.)

5. The list of candidates to rate included: Robert Brown, Erin Cook, Russ Geier, Marty Boykin, and Rick Olmstead. I rated each candidate based on my knowledge of their skills. As would be expected, I was more familiar with some candidates than others, but all of my ratings were my own. The raters do not meet to discuss the candidates, this is meant to be an independent assessment. The raters do not interview the candidates for internal promotions (where all candidates already work for the Shipyard).

- 1 6. All of my ratings were honest and related only to the criteria in the rating matrix.
2 I did not consider any other factors. I know each of the candidates well enough to
3 guess their approximate ages, but I did not know any ages specifically. But, age
4 was not a factor in my ratings in any way, not even the person's approximate age.
- 5 7. A selection for this temporary promotion was made later in February, 2012, the
6 selected candidate was Erin Cook. I was not surprised by this selection, I
7 considered her the "best qualified candidate," and had noted that on my rating
8 sheet.

9 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

10 Executed this 21st day of January, 2014.

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15  1/21/14
16 AARON K. KAUTH
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